

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 27, 2004. Non-elected claims 44-48 have been canceled, without prejudice in view of the Restriction Requirement. Claims 9-10 have also been canceled. New claims 49-50 have been added. Thus, claims 1-8, 11-43 and 49-50 are now pending.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Nakamura. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires that "said optical element has a principal plane including a plurality of tilt faces tilted with respect to a display plane, a light ray incident on said display layer through said optical element and reflected by said reflection element is allowed to outgo in a direction normal to said display plane; wherein said optical element has a plurality of other faces having an angle of about 90 degrees with respect to said display plane, and said plurality of tilt faces and said plurality of other faces are formed alternately, so that a light ray incident from a side of the plurality of other faces is allowed to outgo in the direction normal to the display plane." For example, and without limitation, Fig. 1 of the instant application illustrates that the optical element includes a plurality of "other faces" 121 having an angle of about 90 degrees with respect to the display plane, and a plurality of tilt faces 120 which are angled and are longer than the "other faces." Fig. 1B illustrates, for example and without limitation, that the light ray A incident from a side of the plurality of other faces is allowed to outgo as light ray B in a direction normal to the display plane.

Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1, especially the underlined portions above. As shown in Fig. 14 of Nakamura, the light ray incident from a side of the

longer faces of the prisms is reflected to be observer – but not in a direction normal to the display plane. Thus, as shown in Exhibit A attached hereto, it will be appreciated that in Nakamura's configuration a light ray incident from a side of the plurality of other faces is NOT allowed to outgo in the direction normal to the display plane. Thus, as shown in Exhibit A attached hereto for example, Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined aspects of claim 1.

JP '624 also fails to disclose or suggest the invention of amended claim 1. As shown in Fig. 1 of JP '624, the reference merely teaches that the direction can be moved from direction 13 to direction 12. However, JP '624 fails to disclose or suggest that a light ray incident from a side of the plurality of other faces is allowed to outgo in the direction normal to the display plane as required by claim 1.

Yano also fails to disclose or suggest the invention of claim 1. Claim 1 as amended requires that "said optical element has a plurality of other faces having an angle of about 90 degrees with respect to said display plane." This feature is advantageous in that the optical element surface may be utilized more efficiently and may be easily fabricated. For example, and without limitation, in a case where light is incident on the optical element as shown in Fig. 5 of the instant application, as the angle of the shorter face(s) with respect to the display plane is smaller, the amount of light incident on the longer faces increases. On the other hand, if the angle of the shorter face(s) with respect to the display plane becomes smaller than 90 degrees, it becomes difficult to fabricate. Yano at col. 5, lines 54-65, states that the inclination angle θ_1 of the short side is set to be 32 to 43 degrees, preferably from 35 to 42 degrees." The short side in Yano corresponds to the "other faces" in claim 1, and claim 1 requires that the other faces have an angle of about 90 degrees with respect to said display plane. Thus, it can be seen that Yano fails to disclose an element having a "plurality of other faces having an angle of about 90 degrees

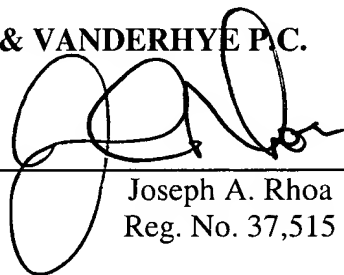
with respect to said display plane" as required by claim 1. Instead, Yano teaches directly away from claim 1 by stating that an angle of 35 to 42 degrees is preferred.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rhoa', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large loops and a trailing flourish.

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100